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COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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"Enriching Lives"

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TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: James A. Noyes
Director of Public Works

SOLID WASTE INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM/PHASE III DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT WORK ORDER

This is to advise you of Public Works' intent to secure consultant services through Internal Services Department and Information Technology Support Service Master Agreement Work Order to assist with the design, development, and implementation of an expansion to the existing web-based Solid Waste Information Management System (SWIMS). We estimate the system expansion will cost between \$650,000 to \$1,000,000. Funds will be provided from the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Fund.

BACKGROUND

The County of Los Angeles is State-mandated to gather information on solid waste disposal and diversion quantities for reporting to the California Integrated Waste Management Board and California cities and counties on the amount of waste disposed at solid waste facilities in the County of Los Angeles.

Public Works is responsible for tracking solid waste disposal data submitted by approximately 20 solid waste facilities and producing State-mandated reports accounting for waste disposed for over 300 California jurisdictions. We also oversee certain compliance plans, fees, and regulations of these facilities. In addition to administering information from solid waste facilities, we also track information submitted by over 120 waste haulers and 24 transfer stations operating within the County and are developing the Waste Origin Verification Program for the unincorporated areas of the County of Los Angeles. Additionally, Public Works is responsible for managing solid waste handling services within the County unincorporated areas.

SWIMS Phase I is an internal database application Public Works developed in 1997. It produces a variety of management reports that analyze waste disposal patterns by month, quarter, year, facility, jurisdiction, and other variables. In the subsequent years, SWIMS Phase I was further expanded to provide improved customer service, more efficient data entry and reporting, and most recently in July 2003 SWIMS was expanded to Phase II, a web-based application which included on-line data transmittals. Specifically, SWIMS Phase II allows the landfill and transformation facility operators to submit disposal quantity information over the Internet, provides automatic report generation, and gives the public limited access to the reports and general information.

At this time, we would like to further expand the capabilities of SWIMS to meet its business operation needs and to provide for a more efficient use of the system by various stakeholders, including the County Department of Health Services, solid waste facilities, Public Works, California Integrated Waste Management Board, jurisdictions, waste haulers, and the general public.

SCOPE OF WORK

SWIMS will encompass the majority of Public Works solid waste management functions into an application that centralizes the storage and management of solid waste disposal information, acts as an online reporting and data exchange, and is a repository of historical data and reports. The system will aid Public Works in waste trend analysis by quickly generating internal reports and providing a spatial view of the data gathered using ArcGIS software. This same software will also be used to locate facilities, site roundup events, and validate customer addresses for waste origin verification.

SWIMS Phase III will occur in two stages. In the first stage of the development, basic framework of the system as well as the high-priority modules or functionalities will be developed. In the second stage, the remaining modules or functionalities with lower priorities will be developed. Each development stage is expected to take approximately one year, with funds for the first stage to be encumbered in Fiscal Year 2003-2004, and for the second stage to be encumbered in Fiscal Year 2004-2005. Both stages of the development will be awarded to the same project team/contractor.

JUSTIFICATION

In 1989, California passed Assembly Bill 939 (California Integrated Waste Management Act) mandating each jurisdiction reduce disposal of solid waste by 50 percent. Each jurisdiction in California had to adopt measures to meet the diversion goals set in Section 41780 of the Public Resources Code. This makes it necessary to collect accurate information from solid waste facilities, waste haulers, jurisdictions, etc.

In order to determine if the jurisdiction has met its goals, it needs to calculate how much solid waste has been disposed by that jurisdiction. The Disposal Reporting System, a component of SWIMS, was developed to assist in this calculation. The Disposal Reporting System is also used to track waste exported out of the County and can track types and amounts of beneficial use materials. The Disposal Reporting System is an integral part in helping California's jurisdictions monitor their disposal numbers.

Pursuant to State laws, Public Works is responsible for reporting the data submitted by solid waste disposal facilities to over 300 jurisdictions. Public Works compiles the data received from the Origin Surveys submitted by the facility operators and generates a report for each jurisdiction.

The development of SWIMS Phase III will result in improved management of solid waste information collected. There will be more efficient data submission, report generation, and access to the information resulting in significant reduction in staff time in performance of repetitive tasks. The reports generated will be consistent due to tight integration of source data through cross-validation.

Furthermore, the system will more efficiently and effectively monitor facilities, waste haulers, transfer stations, and permit conditions. The proposed system will enhance the existing Solid Waste Revenue tracking system. Streamlined revenue tracking and a recovery system will result in significant payback by ensuring that the payment and penalty is received in full amount and in a timely manner thus allowing for increased revenue.

The added GIS interface will enhance the visual and intuitive viewing of jurisdictional information. It will serve as a planning tool for siting of events such as Household Hazardous and Electronic Waste Collection roundups and tire collection events. The GIS interface is also helpful in solid waste origin verification which is a crucial tool for the County's compliance with the State's 50 percent waste diversion mandate. The general public will also have access to the GIS database via the Internet to view specific information about facilities, events, recycling centers, transfer stations, etc.

Relationship with eDAPTS

On June 18, 2002, the Board of Supervisors approved the electronic Development And Permit Tracking System to serve as the permit tracking system for the County. The SWIMS project is not a permit tracking software application, and will not duplicate any permit processing functions of eDAPTS. The tracking features of the SWIMS project with respect to Public Works' solid waste facility oversight responsibilities will allow Public Works' staff to monitor the implementation of various requirements of solid waste facilities.

As both the systems' requirements are further defined, we will reexamine the system designs to determine if there are opportunities to interface the solid waste facilities' Conditional Use Permit tracking with eDAPTS.

FISCAL IMPACT

The total cost of SWIMS Phase III development is estimated to be between \$650,000 and \$1,000,000. As discussed above, the development of the first stage is expected to take place during the 2003-04 Fiscal Year and the second stage in the 2004-05 Fiscal Year with funds for each stage to be encumbered in their respective fiscal year. If necessary, the balance of the funds needed to complete the project may be encumbered in Fiscal Year 2005-06. Funds will be provided by the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Fund (GD1 Fund).

CLOSING

We consulted with the Chief Information Office to review the SWIMS expansion project.

Unless instructed otherwise, we will notify the Internal Services Department to proceed with the execution of the Work Order within two weeks from the date of this memorandum. Should you require additional information, please contact Don Wolfe, Chief Deputy Director, at (626) 458-4002, or Shari Afshari, Assistant Deputy Director, at (626) 458-3500.

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